

This inventory represents not merely the names of and remarks regarding new plant introductions, but embodies often the notes made at the time of collection by agricultural explorers who have been kept at very considerable expense in the field. In the present case it includes in part the collections made by Prof. H. L. Bolley, of North Dakota, who was sent thru the flax-growing region of Europe in search of the best varieties of flax, especially to find one that was more resistant to the flax rust than those we already have. It covers a portion of the seeds and plants collected by Mr. Ernst A. Bessey during his travels thru a part of the Caucasus, the Crimea, and into Russian Turkestan. It includes a list of valuable new seeds which Hon. Robert P. Skinner very kindly secured in Abyssinia for the Department when sent as commissioner to King Menelik in 1904. The valuable collection of 100 European potato varieties, made by Prof. L. R. Jones, of the University of Vermont, is also included. This inventory includes also the results of Mr. Thomas H. Kearney's explorations in southern Tunis, where he was sent by the Office of Seed and Plant Introduction Investigations to study the date varieties of the Tunisian oases. The collection of date offshoots which Mr. Kearney secured is unique in that it was made after a careful examination of the palms while in full bearing. This is the first time that an agricultural explorer has been given the opportunity to spend the fruiting season in foreign date gardens, and Mr. Kearney's descriptions of the varieties collected in Tunis are from actual observation and not from hearsay. Dry land olives, pomegranates, pistaches, spineless opuntias, and drought-resistant fodder crops were also given attention by Mr. Kearney while in this interesting desert region. The collections made by Mr. P. H. Rolfs during his explorations of the vanilla-growing regions of Mexico are chronicled in this inventory, and the vanilla cuttings secured at that time are contributing their share toward the solution of the problem of vanilla culture in Florida.

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